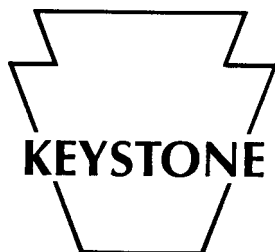




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Highlights

Poultry Production & Value
Cold Storage
Agricultural Prices
Poultry
Livestock Slaughter
Monthly Hogs & Pigs

The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

USDA TO SURVEY PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS



Pennsylvania farmers will be asked to participate in a nationwide survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in early June. Information gleaned from the survey will be used to estimate 2003 crop acreage and mid-year livestock inventories. PASS is operated jointly by USDA and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Farmer cooperation is necessary to provide reliable crop and livestock information. USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board will release national and state reports based on the information in late June.

Results of this survey will provide farmers, agri-businesses, policymakers, and other users of agricultural data with the information vital for planning and decision making. All information concerning individuals is CONFIDENTIAL and will be used only in developing the state and national estimates.

POULTRY PRODUCTION

The combined value of Pennsylvania poultry production in 2002 was \$596.8 million, down 14 percent from the \$690.0 million in 2001. Egg production accounted for 46.7 percent of the total value, broiler production was 37.8 percent of the total, turkey production accounted for 15.2 percent, and the value of mature chickens sold (excluding broilers) accounted for less than 1 percent of the total value.

Total egg production for 2002 was valued at \$279.3 million, down 8 percent from \$303.7 million one year earlier. During the year 6.52 billion eggs were produced, 2 percent less than in 2001. Prices for all eggs sold, including hatching eggs, averaged 51.4 cents per dozen during the year, compared to 54.7 cents per dozen in 2001.

Broiler production during 2002 was valued at \$225.9 million, down 21 percent from the previous year. A total of 133.2 million broilers were produced in 2002, up slightly from 2001. The average price received by producers in 2002 was 32.0 cents per pound live weight, compared to 41.0 cents per pound received a year earlier.

Turkey producers raised 9.9 million poult during 2002, up 4 percent from the previous year. The value of turkey production in 2002, at \$91.1 million, was 7 percent less than in 2001. Producers received an average of 39 cents per pound live weight during the year, down 7 cents per pound from 2001. Mature chickens sold (excluding broilers) in 2002 were valued at \$529,000, 2 percent less than the previous year. A total of 14.7 million mature chickens were sold during the year, 2 percent less than in 2001. Prices for mature chickens averaged 1.0 cent per pound live weight, same as the previous year.

Nationally, the combined value of production from broilers, eggs and turkeys, and the value of chickens sold in 2002, was \$20.4 billion, down 15 percent from the \$24.0 billion in 2001. Of the combined total, 66 percent was from broilers, over 21 percent from eggs, over 13 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens. The value of broilers produced during 2002 was \$13.4 billion, down 20 percent from 2001. The total number of broilers produced in 2002 was 8.59 billion, up 2 percent from 2001. The 2002 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 30.5 cents per pound, compared to 39.3 cents per pound in 2001.

Value of egg production in 2002 was \$4.26 billion, down 4 percent from the \$4.45 billion in 2001. Egg production totaled 86.7 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 85.7 billion eggs produced in 2001. In 2002, eggs averaged 59.0 cents per dozen, compared with 62.2 cents in 2001. The value of turkeys produced during 2002 was \$2.70 billion, down 3 percent from the \$2.79 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2002 totaled 7.41 billion pounds live weight, compared with 7.15 billion pounds in 2001. The prices received by producers during 2002 averaged 36.5 cents per pound live weight, compared with 39.0 cents a year earlier. The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2002 was \$49.0 million, up 6 percent from the \$46.4 million a year ago. Prices averaged 4.7 cents per pound, compared with 4.5 cents in 2001.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, APRIL 2003

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Apr 2002	Mar 2003	Apr 2003 ¹	Apr 2002	Mar 2003	Apr 2003 ¹
		Dollars					
Corn	Bu.	2.37	2.98	3.01	1.91	2.33	2.35
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.75	3.29	3.17
Oats	Bu.	1.87	2.27	2.20	1.99	2.08	1.98
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.09	2.83	2.87
Hay, Dry All	Ton	134.00	145.00	145.00	98.30	92.80	94.50
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	151.00	168.00	165.00	103.00	96.20	96.20
Dry Other	Ton	116.00	133.00	132.00	79.50	82.30	86.40
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.140	.226	-	.218	.226	.234
Potatoes	Cwt.	12.60	10.30	10.30	8.00	6.68	7.11
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	41.50	38.00	38.90	40.10	39.50	40.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	66.40	71.90	74.40	70.60	76.70	79.30
Calves	Cwt.	117.00	112.00	113.00	101.00	97.00	99.10
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	30.10	34.20	31.80	32.00	35.20	34.20
Sows	Cwt.	22.60	22.00	22.80	25.30	24.70	25.70
Eggs ³	Doz.	.400	.590	.610	.325	.518	.520
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	14.20	12.50	-	12.50	11.00	10.90
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	11.20	9.30	-	11.30	9.80	9.90
All	Cwt.	14.20	12.50	12.40	12.50	11.00	10.90
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	1,650.00	-	1,300.00	1,710.00	-	1,300.00

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Insufficient data to establish price.

PRICES PAID FOR FUELS AND FEED, APRIL 2002-2003

Commodity	Unit	Northeast Region ¹		United States	
		April 2002	April 2003	April 2002	April 2003
		Dollars			
Fuels:					
Gasoline, Service Station (Unleaded)	Gal.	1.36	1.67	1.36	1.61
Gasoline, Bulk Delivery (Unleaded)	Gal.	1.37	1.68	1.37	1.60
Diesel, Bulk Delivery	Gal.	1.028	1.516	0.964	1.238
L.P. Gas, Bulk Delivery	Gal.	1.255	1.527	0.925	1.213
Feed:					
Alfalfa Meal	Cwt.	16.40	17.50	14.40	15.00
Alfalfa Pellets	Cwt.	17.30	18.00	14.40	15.30
Bran	Cwt.	12.50	12.80	13.60	13.70
Beef Cattle Concentrate, 32-36%	Ton	308.00	301.00	277.00	290.00
Corn Meal	Cwt.	9.08	9.50	8.06	9.90
Cottonseed Meal, 41%	Cwt.	15.00	17.80	15.80	16.60
Dairy Feed, 16%	Ton	178.00	194.00	190.00	200.00
18%	Ton	192.00	207.00	194.00	207.00
20%	Ton	192.00	202.00	191.00	201.00
32%	Ton	275.00	304.00	298.00	311.00
Hog Feed, 14-18%	Ton	247.00	250.00	216.00	223.00
38-42%	Ton	335.00	352.00	307.00	322.00
Molasses, Liquid	Cwt.	12.20	11.30	12.90	13.30
Poultry Feed, Broiler Grower	Ton	258.00	249.00	259.00	234.00
Chick Starter	Ton	271.00	261.00	240.00	241.00
Laying Feed	Ton	215.00	232.00	225.00	232.00
Turkey Grower	Ton	248.00	257.00	264.00	279.00
Soybean Meal, 44%	Cwt.	14.10	14.90	13.50	14.50
Stock Salt	50 Lb.	5.32	5.40	4.12	4.30
Trace Mineral Blocks	50 Lb.	6.54	6.60	5.24	5.40

¹ Northeast region: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

APRIL FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April is 101, based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.0 percent) from the March index. Higher prices for cattle, lettuce, onions, and soybeans more than offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat, and hogs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, cattle, oranges, and milk offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and wheat.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 7 points (7.4 percent) from April, 2002. Higher prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, and broilers more than offset lower prices for potatoes, dry beans, celery, and lemons. The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points (3.1 percent) above last month to 99, and is 6 points (6.4 percent) above April last year.

PRICES PAID INDEX UP 1 POINT

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates was 128 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 1 point from March and 5 points (4.1 percent) above April 2002. Higher prices in April for feeder cattle, self-propelled machinery, hay and forages, and feed grains more than offset lower prices for diesel fuel, complete feeds, milk cows, and feeder pigs.

Fuels: The Fuels Index, at 143, is down 2.1 percent from a month earlier but 25 percent above April 2002. Compared to last month, prices were lower for diesel fuel, LP gas, and gasoline. Feed: The Feed Index, at 114, is the same as March but 4.6 percent above last April. Since March, slightly lower prices for complete feeds offset slightly higher prices for hay and forages, and feed grains.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 31, 2003

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 2,617,000 bushels on March 31, 2003, compared to 3,768,000 bushels on March 31, 2002. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 912,000; Rome with 639,000; and Golden Delicious with 457,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 109,976,000 pounds on March 31, 2003, compared to 158,217,000 pounds on March 31, 2002. There were 82,000 pounds of pear stocks reported in cold storage on March 31, 2003, compared to 14,000 pounds on March 31, 2002.

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2003 were greater than year earlier levels for cheese, butter, frozen eggs, total turkey, and orange juice. Butter stocks were 2 percent above February 2003 and 67 percent above a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were 4 percent below February 28, 2003 and 2 percent below March 2002. Frozen pork stocks were 1 percent above last month but 1 percent below last year. Stocks of pork bellies were 11 percent above last month but 30 percent below March 2002 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies on March 31, 2003 were up 3 percent from last month and down 20 percent from last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were down 4 percent from last month and down 20 percent from last year's level. Total pounds of turkey in freezers increased 14 percent from last month and 16 percent above last year.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, MARCH 31, 2003

Variety	March 31, 2002					March 31, 2003				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	1,000 Bushels									
York	6	0	384	713	1,103	0	0	484	428	912
Stayman	1	10	17	51	79	0	1	7	8	16
Rome	2	38	131	414	585	2	33	151	453	639
Red Delicious	24	285	163	116	588	6	223	15	90	334
Golden	1	94	443	363	901	1	71	76	309	457
Jonathan	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
McIntosh	1	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	1
Cortland	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other ²	45	50	230	176	501	43	44	44	127	258
Total	80	482	1,373	1,833	3,768	52	443	777	1,416	2,617

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

UNITED STATES: MONTHLY FARROWINGS - NUMBER OF SOWS, PIGS PER LITTER AND PIG CROP; MONTHLY SOWS AND GILTS - INVENTORY AND NUMBER BRED ¹

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop		Sows and Gilts			
							Inventory 1 st of Month		Bred during Month	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000</i>									
December ²	923	908	8.66	8.75	7,994	7,943	6,031	5,850	1,194	1,165
January	946	931	8.73	8.82	8,257	8,211	6,022	5,835	1,190	1,150
February	967	928	8.83	8.86	8,543	8,220	6,020	5,810	1,156	1,125
March	978	940	8.80	8.85	8,608	8,319	6,075	5,830	1,181	1,145
April	983		8.85		8,700		5,980	5,795	1,173	
May	982		8.81		8,651		5,985		1,170	
June	960		8.89		8,537		6,030		1,168	
July	968		8.89		8,609		5,975		1,145	
August	959		8.92		8,554		5,940		1,120	
September	951		8.85		8,416		5,890		1,145	
October	940		8.83		8,300		5,870		1,160	
November	926		8.83		8,176		5,860		1,170	
Total	11,483		8.83		101,344					

¹ Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding. ² December preceding year.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Mar 2003	Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Mar 2003
Layers	Thous.	23,379	24,403	24,229	337,447	337,881	337,598
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,361	2,131	2,386	2,198	1,959	2,181
Eggs Produced	Million	552	520	578	7,417	6,618	7,363
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,867	3,709	4,012	36,977	29,988	36,726
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	13,688	11,185	12,027	791,093	694,590	774,836
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	25,746	23,833	24,633

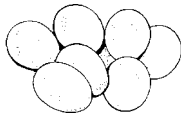
EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during March 2003 totaled 578 million eggs, up 5 percent from the 552 million produced in March 2002. The total number of layers averaged 24.2 million during March, 4 percent more than the 23.4 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,386 eggs during the month, a increase of 25 eggs from March 2002.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2003 totaled 4.01 million, 18 percent less than the 4.87 million hatched the previous March. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.0 million during March 2003, down 12 percent from the 13.7 million hatched the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.36 billion during March 2003, down 1 percent from last year. The total number of layers during March averaged 338 million, slightly higher than the average number of layers during March 2002. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,181 eggs, down 1 percent from the 2,197 eggs in March 2002.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during March totaled 36.7 million, down 1 percent from March 2002. Broiler-type hatch totaled 775 million, down 2 percent from the previous March. There were 24.6 million turkey poults placed in the United States during March 2003, down 4 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.



COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APR 2003

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod . . .	Mil. Lbs.	105.4	3,701
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	87.6	2,770
	Mil. Lbs. Live	112.0	3,417
Calves	Thous. Hd.	15.4	85
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.7	27
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	225.9	8,152
	Mil. Lbs. Live	56.5	2,182
Sheep & Lambs . .	Thous. Hd.	5.9	264
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.6	36

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during March 2003 totaled 105.4 million pounds, up 10 percent from March 2002. Beef production, at 112.0 million pounds live weight, was up 14 percent from March 2002. Total head slaughtered was 87,600, up 14 percent. Live weight averaged 1,278 pounds, unchanged from last year. Veal production was 5.7 million pounds live weight, up 19 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 15,400 head was up 16 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 5 pounds to 369 pounds. Pork production was 56.5 million pounds live weight, up 9 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 225,900, up 9 percent from March 2002. Average live weight is unchanged from last year. Lamb and mutton production during March 2003 was 644,000 pounds live weight, down 4 percent. The number slaughtered was 5,900, down 11 percent. Average live weight increased 7 pounds to 109 pounds.

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